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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 17



KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

The Camel and the You're So Hip! band build up excitement as the college reveals the newly redesigned camel athletic logo at Founder's Day.

Haiti Relief Efforts Lack Participation

**TESSA ENGEL
& JAZMINE HUGHES**
CONTRIBUTOR &
NEWS EDITOR

Describe Connecticut College students in one word: if you're the website, we're "diverse." If you're a professor, we are "bright" or "engaged." If you're a student, however, who wants to actively recruit other students to participate in an important cause, we're "apathetic."

In an email to the CISLA students, Mary Devins, Associate Director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, encouraged students to dispute the dispassion that we are known for. "Some folks have said we could not succeed, too much apathy at Connecticut College. Please please prove them wrong and get behind this. It is important to all of us in CISLA and more importantly to these orphaned children."

This past weekend, a series of lectures and performances organized principally by our peers comprised the "Hope for Haiti" benefit. On Friday afternoon, there were seven brief lectures and on Friday and Saturday nights, there were N2O improv, a cappella, Dance Team and individual student performances. The event culminated with Haitian-born, NYC-based Erol Josue and his band groovin'

and jivin' in Cro.

Unfortunately, few attended. After months of planning and publicity, the white plastic folding chairs in the 1962 room outnumbered guests at least two to one.

All of the proceeds from the events will go directly to the International Alliance for the Advancement of Children, an on-the-ground organization that provides nutrition, education, and training to thirteen children whose parents perished in the disaster.

Speaking to the audience last Friday, Ghislane Georges thanked Connecticut College community members for their work, expressing that the charity efforts like the College's give voice to the Haitian people, and that it is through efforts like these that their stories are spread.

But where were the Conn students?

"The overall turnout was very disappointing," said one of the chairs of the Response Committee. "I thought that considering the circumstances with this horrific disaster, students would have displayed a greater sense of concern and support, and seen this as an opportunity to help people who aren't as fortunate as we are and who are fighting for their lives."

Admission to the Hope for Haiti events was contingent on the pur

SEE HAITI, PAGE 3

SGA Passes Proposal Restructuring Exec Board

CLAIRE S. GOULD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The SGA assembly recently passed a resolution that will affect the structure of future SGA assemblies.

The Commission on SGA Restructuring allowed a group of SGA members, advisor Dean Briddell and a student-at-large to closely examine the Constitution and Bylaws (C-Book) and current structure of SGA and to recommend changes to improve its "efficiency and effectiveness."

SGA President Peter Friedrichs '10, along with students from the sophomore, junior and senior classes, spent the past semester researching and discussing the current structure of SGA and how assembly members and their committees work with different areas of the college.

Over the years, executive boards have discussed how a ten-member board is ungainly and members like the Chair of J-Board, Chair of

Academic Affairs, Chair of SAC, Chair of Residential Affairs and Chair of Diversity and Equity – are required to deal also with the everyday operations of SGA like tabling blood drive signups, creating the weekly agenda and organizing SGA-sponsored events.

This may distract members from the unique roles and responsibilities of their individual position.

"We have looked at how the executive board currently has two functions. One is to deal with everyday things and serving the campus, while the other is to deal with campuswide issues," said Friedrichs.

To resolve this problem and better serve students, the Commission has decided to divide the executive board into two branches: the Operations Council which will organize day-to-day operations, create agendas and plan events, and the President's Council, which will discuss campuswide concerns.

In this new configuratory,

President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Presidential Associate and Vice President of Public Relations would sit on the Operations Council while the President, Vice President and Chairs would sit on the President's Council.

This will allow executive board members to better focus on their specific duties while also providing a forum to discuss and collaborate with each other on larger campus concerns.

The Environmental Representative, currently on the same level as senators and class presidents has been elevated to an executive bound position: Chair of Environment Affairs. He or she will head the House Environmental Representatives.

Friedrichs said, "Environmentalism is one of Conn's core values and one central to shared governance. It seemed appropriate to add the position to its rightful position on the executive board,

SEE SGA, PAGE 4

Best Buddies Program Forms Lasting Bonds



KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

SAMANTHA HERNDON
NEWS EDITOR

Walk, bike or meander past Cro late on a Sunday morning, and you're likely to see the smiling faces of party of buddies. The band of friends might be playing with a rainbow-hued parachute, tossing footballs, or creating art with sidewalk chalk. These aren't just any buddies, but are in fact the Best Buddies: part of an international organization that pairs people up to form meaningful connections.

On Sunday April 11, the Buddies held a movement workshop on Larrabee green, inspired by Heidi Henderson's popular Experimental Dance class.

"The main goal of Best Buddies is to have one-on-one friendships between intellectually disabled people and college students," said

Seymour de Oliveira. De Oliveira recently began a position as College Program Manager for Best Buddies in Connecticut. He helps the various chapters in the state to facilitate friendships and gatherings, at colleges and universities and off-campus.

Students involved speak of the relationships they develop with the buddies. "The great beauty about Best Buddies is that people with intellectual disabilities love you for who you are as a human being they don't love you because you're famous or because you have a fancy car," said Anthony Kennedy Shriver, founder and chairman of Best Buddies, in a promotional video.

"I think that's something that's really special about this organization, it's really about the power of friendship," Shriver continued.

The Best Buddies chapter at Conn was started in 2006 by Peggy McQuaid '10 with the help of Rebecca McCue, Associate Director of the Holleran Center. Then, it had five pairings of college students and buddies, and met twice a month. Today, the program has grown, and the dynamics have shifted.

Sarah Holland '11, a psychology-based human relations major and dance minor who is working toward certification in elementary education, now serves as the College Buddy Director.

"It's been a transition year," she said of the club. Best Buddies has recently moved from having older Buddies paired with the College Buddies to having Buddies ages 18 to 24.

Eliana, a junior, said, "The cre

SEE BUDDIES, PAGE 3

The Isms and Outs of Blanche

DONALD BUDGE
COLUMNIST

When I sat down for my first creative writing class, I did not expect my sixty two year old professor's former name to have been Rain when she was part of a radical lesbian commune; or for her to walk into class with dried blood all over her knuckles, only to tell us: "My doctor said I should probably stop fighting... but I can't."

After handing in a story with a few punctuation errors, she began slamming my paper on the desk, yelling to the class "Do I look like a word janitor to you? Am I here to clean up after you? No. Then don't hand me your garbage." To understand that I needed to be torn down first, and then cared for, is just one of many times Blanche was able to see into a person deeply, doing what she thought was right with no reservations. It is this tremendous humanity that allowed her to successfully tell the story of Susan

Smith in her article for the Village Voice, and her Endowed Chair Lecture.

Professor Boyd identifies herself with the generation of Tom Wolfe's New Journalism, which she now dubs "Narrative Nonfiction," where many journalists include their own experiences as part of the story and use fiction techniques. The lecture was Blanche's crash course in narrative non-fiction, which she believed to have been pioneered after Vietnam. "After seeing children on fire with napalm while eating dinner, what was I going to make up that would match the truth? Nothing."

Fifteen years ago, Blanche wrote an in-depth investigative report for the Village Voice on the case of Susan Smith, a complex story of a mother drowning her own children while they were in the backseat of her car, and then telling the police that a black man had stolen her car.

SEE BOYD, PAGE 6

Sports

NEW CAMEL LOGO

Reactions from athletes: is it a hit or miss? p.8

Arts

3-D FILMS

Do they enhance films or are they just giving theaters on fire of our dollars? p.6

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NO MORE MATZAH!

Harris Dining Hall goes mad for matzah this Passover p.9

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CHANGE

Our warped perception of "change" on campus. p.12

I AM CAMEL, HEAR ME ROAR

In 1969, Connecticut College appointed the camel as a mascot. In 2010, it got a whole new look-- from "friendly" to "fierce", it's got people talking.



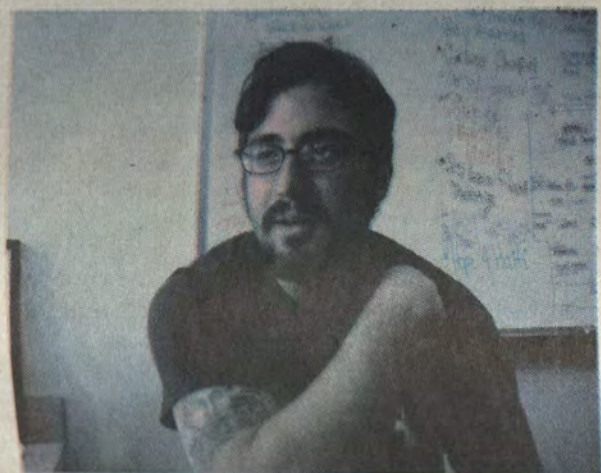
"We went from a soft, friendly looking camel to a mean snail."

- Ashton Evans '13 and
Rasheed Mitchell '13



"They shouldn't have changed it at all. We should go back to the original."

Kim Lewis and
Maria Avery



"It looks like it would look good on a football helmet... but we don't have a football team."

Davis McGraw '10



"The old camel was confident without being intimidating. The new camel looks like it has too much to prove. Plus, I've seen two fights since the new, more aggressive camel."

- Pete Konowski '12



"We understand the intention to get more support, especially from alumni and donors, but... A cooler logo could've been created by the students for a much lesser price."

- Karam Sethi '12

"How can we spend so much money on the mascot and the new seating area when the Slavic Studies department is in danger of being closed?"

- Madja Khiam '12



"I feel like there might be better ways to spend the money. It's very aggressive, but I guess mascots generally are."

- Melanie Poole '11



Letter from Mom

BETSY BURGESS
CONTRIBUTOR

Editor's Note: This is actually a note from Betsy's mom.

Oh, dear. It's not as bad as I expected, but it doesn't look like a camel. It looks like a guy. Doesn't anyone acknowledge Conn's heritage as a women's school?

This camel is supposed to look proud, strong, and dignified? What it looks to me is nasty, and camels are naturally nasty enough. Didn't anyone do any research on camels?

They say they consulted a lot of people. Well, it's obvious that they didn't consult me.

Again, oh, dear.

Love,
Mom

Life Inside the Suit

Students comment on the joy of being the mascot

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

There are a lot of things in the Office of Admission: water bottles, "power pack" packages of blue and white M&Ms and giant boxes of pens. Working there as a summer Admissions worker, I stumbled upon a plastic tote box with brown fur sticking out of it.

It was better than buried treasure: the Camel costume.

The camel became the Connecticut College mascot in 1969, the same year the college went co-ed. Mike Shinault, who was then head of the print shop and newly-instated basketball coach, chose it after a Pakistani team he'd seen during his time in the Navy. Part of the magic of having such a whimsical mascot is, of course, wearing the costume. Part of the magic of having such a costume is the built-in sauna.

The camel costume comes in three parts: first, the hump of the camel, an optional accessory. The hump, or the "large, furry orange thing" as one former camel calls it, isn't attached to the rest of the costume. It is largely unimportant.

The body of the suit weighs about fifteen pounds, and is basically a heavy duty Snuggie with pants. I suspect that it is highly flammable. The best part of the suit, however, is the "easy access" hole, which is used, supposedly, to make peeing easier.

The head of the camel, the icing on the cake, is a virtual death trap. The neck of the camel is uncomfortably slim, with the camel's mouth made out of mesh and serving as the view to the outside world. It is also the only air source. The camel's goofy smile and bright eyes are only improved by the tuft of orange hair atop his head, a Mohawk of sorts.

Needless to say, being in the camel suit is not as fun as it looks. Still, the payoff comes with the friendliness, the interaction with students, faculty, and staff members, and the complete anonymity that the suit garners — when else can you go up President Higdon and dance with him? — make up for the difficulties in the suit. Here are several, anonymous experiences, including a letter, detailed by those who have been in the suit...

Last fall, Spectrum held an event called "Pride Day," a stand-in for our traditional Coming Out Day celebration. If you attended those festivities between the hours of 11 AM and 1 PM, you may have been accosted by Connecticut College's friendly camel mascot. Well, it's time for me to reveal my secret: I was that camel.

For reasons I myself cannot explain, dressing up as a school mascot had always been a goal of mine; therefore, when the opportunity presented itself, I enthusiastically volunteered to spend the first few hours of my Wednesday dressed as a large camel. I had no idea what I was in for.

I arrived at the LGBTQ Center that morning to find the costume waiting for me in a large chest. I got dressed with the help of my friend, who, among other things, helped me figure out that the large, furry orange thing was not, as I initially suspected, a hairpiece, but rather the camel's hump.

However, even conquering that mystery did not solve all our problems: we saw no way to attach the hump to the back of the camel suit. Fortunately, this problem was quickly resolved; we had already decided that I would be wearing one of Spectrum's t-shirts, and thus were able to shove the furry mass up the back of the shirt, which kept it (relatively) in place.

Thus costumed, I was led out of the LGBTQ Center and across the street to Cro. I had some difficulty seeing through the eyeholes, which were located at chin level, but even on that short walk I had my first experience of the magic of being the camel. People were excited to see me; they would wave to me, and seemed thrilled when I waved back. I felt like a celebrity by the time I walked into Cro, but unfortunately, that feeling was short-lived.

Even on a chilly November day, that costume is like an oven; I was sweltering long before people began to arrive at the Pride Day table. The time that followed was a sweaty, hazy blur. I remember approaching various people that I knew, pok

SEE CAMEL, PAGE 4

A junior camel...

Haiti Relief Efforts

Disappointing attendance rates attributed to confusion and lack of communication

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chase of a ten-dollar bracelet. Many students expressed concern that the price was "too high" and not well communicated, and this may have resulted in the poor attendance at the events.

"I understand that a student's budget is somewhat limited, but I do think that there are moments in life where we must embrace the desire to make a difference and show compassion. Just five dollars allows a child in Haiti to go to school for a week, providing these children with proper nutrition, supplies, and a chance for a better life," the event chair continued.

Myaisha Hayes, a prospective student, was deterred by the seeming lack of interest on the part of the campus. "I wondered if this was a typical situation—do CC students not typically show up to events and fundraisers? It seemed like everyone in the audience just went to see their friends."

"As a performer, we put a lot of time into practices and choreographing, but to dance and see that there weren't that many faces in the audience... that's disappointing," said Livy Grossman '12.

In her presentation, Georges ensured that it was easy for anyone to provide assistance to her charity. "One of many challenges we face is to find competent individuals in Haiti to teach English and computer skills to the children. It would

be a great opportunity for students of Connecticut College to travel to Haiti on a rotating basis to help teach English and computer skills to those kids," she told the room.

The charity is currently providing services, food, and care to thirteen displaced orphans that were rescued from Port-au-Prince. "With a few exceptions, I believe that the best place for children to be is with their parents, or relatives who can love and nurture them. Unfortunately, all of the children have lost one or both parents. For the few that still have a living relative, that person is currently homeless and does not have a safe place to keep those kids," George expressed. "We want to create a safe place for the children, where they can thrive and reach their full potential."

Since the Hope for Haiti Response Committee started organizing their efforts, there has been one question in classrooms, hallways, and discussions: where is our money going? The weekend's activities provided ample answers, only to be disregarded by many members of the campus community. We aren't the only guilty ones, however—humanitarian efforts and media coverage has decreased immensely over the past two months. What else is there to do?

Some students were disappointed by the committee's publicity efforts and the "mandatory donation." Posters and

Facebook events, advertising the same events with different times and dates, confused people who were interested in attending these events.

"I feel like I weren't really able to contribute as much to the benefit as we could have because they charged too much for tickets. Also, I didn't know too much about the events. I was never really sure what was going on," commented Will Brown '11.

Senior Grace Astrove thinks that students have been numbed to the attempts at publicizing the many events on our campus. "I think that students are so overwhelmed with flyers, posters, emails and Facebook event invitations that nothing really gets through or students just ignore it after awhile. I constantly hear students complain that nothing is going on, but I know there are a number of events [being offered]. As a majority of the students here seem to be aloof to the events, there must be some disconnect between publicity and the students at large. However, I believe that students need to take an active role in finding things to do."

"There was nothing that we could do that we didn't do. We did the best we could, but you can't force people to participate," commented Ted Fisher, a chair of the Response Committee. "The opportunities were there, but people just didn't take them."

"An Act of God": Post-Spring Break Flooding in Dorms

BEN GITKIND
STAFF WRITER

The Tuesday after break I woke up at 6 AM to the rhythmic patter of water splashing into puddles on the floor of my dorm room. I've known that Branford is not the most architecturally sound building in the world, but I was surprised that the frame of my window wasn't holding anything back. I groggily threw some towels down and went back to bed.

I was conscious again around 10:25 AM, at which point real mayhem was breaking out in the basement. I trudged downstairs upon receiving an email from the Office of Residential Life warning all Housefellows that their basements might be flooding. I caught one resident, Stephen Eicher '13, heading out to class.

"I woke up and looked over the side of my bed and saw one of my socks floating by," he said. "We got a lot of water in there."

I ran up to my room to put boots on and made my way back to the basement. There were a couple of inches of standing water, worse in some places, being furiously swept around by six Physical Plant employees. They were equipped with a water pump and were able to dry out the basement by the mid-afternoon. While this is a long time to have water around, the school's equipment and staff were thinly spread throughout the flooded dorms, making the process especially slow and grueling for the custodians.

Confused residents of the Branford basement tried in vain to sop up the water using towels or simply sacrificing their carpets to keep it from spreading further. Everyone seemed grumpy but generally satisfied with the school's response, especially the hard work of the Physical Plant employees who kept them all from drowning in their sleep.

"We were told and handed forms about how the school would compensate overnight water damage. Several things were damaged, such as a Playstation and a computer," said Nick Tolman, a freshman who resides in a basement quad in Branford.

However, due to nuances in our college's insurance policies, the school reversed its decision shortly thereafter.

"A day later we were sent a letter from the Director of Res. Life saying that the college couldn't cover our damages," said Tolman.

As an employee of Residential Life, I know that events like this often paint a bad picture of the wrong people. Director Amy Gauthier had to play the villain in this case, sending out the email telling students that they were not going to be covered.

"If any of your items were damaged, you will need to either consult your renter's insurance or your parent's homeowners insurance policy," Gauthier wrote in her email to students. "When we experience severe weather, much like we did on Tuesday, it is considered an 'act of God' and is not covered by the college's insurance."

Just so we're all on the same Wikipedia page, an act of God is "a legal term for events outside of human control for which no one can be held responsible."

Students were understandably disturbed by this response.

"It sounded like the school was implying that God intentionally screwed us over and they could do nothing to help us," said Tolman.

"If floods happen every year, fix it," said Edward McClean, a freshman in Branford. "That they have only a handful of vacuums to handle a flooding situation is absurd."

Colleen Haggarty, Area Coordinator of central campus, described the way

our insurance works in general terms. If a flaw in the building directly causes a problem, such as a pipe bursting, the school can cover it. The school cannot cover the actions of God. Apparently this was some biblical stuff, one step down from Noah's Ark Part II, because the school's hands were tied and they could not cover the damages.

Here's where things get sour: the flooding was clearly due to a structural flaw in the building, not just the magnitude of this Godstorm. In fact, Branford is one of the dorms at the top of the Connecticut College hill; we sit pretty close to the stairs of Blaustein where tours are told they are at the highest point in New London. You will notice that you have to go downhill to get to the Plex. If this was truly an act of God, it seems odd that the buildings that are, geographically speaking, the least susceptible to flooding would be targeted.

The truth is that the flooding in Branford happened because the dorm is old. Everyone knows it is not waterproof in any sense. Claiming that this was an act of God is based on the premise that no one saw the event coming, that nobody could have prevented it. Flooding, to some degree, happens every year in these central dorms, Plant, Blackstone, and Branford especially.

We go to a liberal arts college. We are taught everyday in class to question that which is overly dogmatic, to not be someone who accepts institutionalized standards just because they exist. The school should just admit that they don't have the money to cover the damages and fix the dorms, not try to pull the wool over our eyes with the oldest excuse in the Book.



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You and Me, Baby, Ain't Nothin' but Mammals

Results of the ConnSexual Survey

MEREDITH BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

So what does love have to do with it? According to the ConnSexual survey conducted last fall about the sexual behaviors and attitudes of Connecticut College students, not much.

The study, which garnered an overwhelming and diverse group of 1,263 responders, found that 56.5 percent of men surveyed "agree" or "strongly agree" that sex without love is acceptable, and roughly 53 percent of women feel the same way.

Inspired by his work in couples therapy, Professor Singer of the psychology department was curious about the messages students get on college campuses about healthy relationships. He hosted the "What's Love Got to Do With It?" common hour last week.

After hosting a few Dessert and Dialogues with Conn students, Singer realized that in fact students didn't want to talk about typical relationships, rather their main concerns focused on transactional

relationships.

Transactional relationships, unlike exclusive relationships, focus not on building intimacy but rather satisfying a partner's short term physical and sometimes emotional needs without strings attached.

The idea to conduct a student survey was encouraged by previous studies by Bernard Murstein at Connecticut College which assessed sexual behaviors in 1974, 1979, 1986 and 1991. These studies not only provided insight into the types of questions to ask students in the ConnSexual survey, but also provide valuable information with which to compare this newly released data.

The survey showed that, despite what many students may think, more than 30 percent of women and 18 percent of men have never had sex. CC Curtiss, Director of Student Wellness and Alcohol/Drug Education pointed out that these statistics display a large discrepancy between students' perception of sex on campus and the reality of sex on campus.

Freshmen use clickers at

orientation to answer questions about controversial issues that they will encounter in college. Most freshmen guess that college students have four or more sexual partners in a year; the ConnSexual survey showed that only 26 percent of men and 22 percent of women surveyed had 3 or more partners in the last year.

Moreover, only 9 percent of men and 6 percent of women have had three or more one-night stands in their lifetime.

"The number of sex partners is significantly and positively correlated with the degree of marijuana and alcohol use; people who drink and smoke more are also more likely to have had more sex partners," Singer said.

Sixty percent of men surveyed are comfortable with hooking up, while only 47 percent of women feel the same way. Singer outlined that is could be a potentially dangerous power dynamic where men need to use caution when gauging female consent.

The study also touched on perceptions of HIV and other STDs. The good news is that

the amount of students being tested for HIV has doubled since 1991, but most students still place themselves in the low-risk category for contracting diseases, despite their questionable sexual behaviors.

"I was most surprised about the students' assessment of themselves in the low-risk category for HIV and STDs. We want to explore that more and make sure that students understand that they are actually in the high risk group," Singer said.

The final portion of the survey conducted a brief assessment of "attachment style," which labels responders one of the following: secure, fearful, preoccupied or dismissive. This label helps to gauge how they may respond in relationship and hook up situations.

The main focus was on the differences between preoccupied (dependent, needy, jealous, possessive) and dismissive (independent, self-sufficient) males.

Preoccupied males were less comfortable with non-exclusive sex and more hopeful that one-

night stands would turn into stable relationships, while dismissive males were the exact opposite.

"These statistics show us that people are engaging in transactional relationships with very different motivations, attitudes and expectations," Singer said.

Curtiss plans to incorporate the new findings into her orientation programs next fall and expand the health programs into the residence halls.

"As a health educator I am most excited to use this data to start talking about risk assessment in terms of behaviors, building the skills to get what individual students want out of a relationship and change the norms about how people perceive the culture here on campus."

The results of the ConnSexual study will be presented at the Association of Psychological Science Conference in May in Boston and all involved plan on conducting more research and further analyzing these preliminary results.

Life in the Camel Suit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ing them, high-fiving them and encouraging their attempts at the Pride Day quiz, while they looked around, bewildered, asking the people behind the table if I was someone they knew. I remember hanging around with President Higdon for a while, and, at some point, my friend put on Van Halen in an attempt to get me to dance around.

But mostly, I remember the heat. I remember making several trips into the bathroom to wipe the profuse sweat off my brow. I remember taking every opportunity possible to stand outside, and I really remember how relieved I felt as I was led back to the LGBTQ Center, where I could finally remove the costume and pass it on to the next sucker who had volunteered to spend the last two hours of Pride Day ensconced in that furry oven.

Another junior camel...

I've always desperately wanted to be the camel. Way back to when I was a junior in high school, my mom and I were waiting in the admissions building for our tour to start. A camel wandered into the room and told us to follow him outside. I became ecstatic — a camel mascot was going to be leading my tour of Conn? This was the best school ever!

The honor of gracing the costume took place three-and-a-half years later, during Orientation 2009. I was cast as the camel in the Orientation skit, put on by the Student Advisors to enlighten the freshmen about Conn. I had to wear this smelly, sweaty, damp costume to every skit dress rehearsal. The costume was missing its paws and I had to wear wet winter gloves, which left a stench on my palms for hours afterwards.

Most importantly, I was too short to be the camel. It never occurred to me that you had to be a certain height to properly, or at least comfortably, become the camel. The camel's crotch came down to my knees, making my camel appear to have unsightly, stubby legs.

Despite these issues, there is an intoxicating freedom to being the camel. You can skip down the road, give strangers hugs and high-fives, and, my all-time favorite, dance like a complete fool. While on stage, my role of the camel involved me hanging out at a "floor party" and shaking my little tail to Sean Kingston (the following scene featuring the camel caused it to attend Choices with CC Curtis).

Everyone loves the camel: it never fails to put a smile on anyone's face. Even on move-in day, when anxious parents and frightened freshmen were freaking out about the weather, the sight of the camel dancing out by the school's entrance was enough to make that turn onto campus feel just right. For me, it made me look back at my introduction to my school, and it reminded me that for some, the camel is the first part of Conn that potential students are really exposed to.

...

A senior camel...

It is an exhilarating and exhausting experience. Being inside is unbelievably hot and uncomfortable; it feels as if you are in a diving suit that is ten times too big for you. But the attention you get, like high fives, hugs and people taking photos of you, makes it so much fun. Everyone is so happy to see the camel!

Also there is something very freeing about wearing a silly camel costume; you can't help but want to dance around and make a fool out of yourself since no one knows it's you!

I don't think I would do it a second time but I definitely think it's something that any true CC student should experience...

...

And, finally, a letter from an experienced Camel...

Dear beloved fellow Camels,

Reflecting on this year, it has been an honor and pleasure to represent you as your mascot. I look forward to years to come, especially in donning my snazzy new look! However, a few things have raised cause for concern and I would like to look to

you to help maintain the Camel's general well-being.

People really want to know who the Camel is and try to piece together clues, the first of which is the attempt to identify gender. I cannot tell you how many times the Camel has been groped to see whether or not there are "lovely lady lumps" (so fittingly referenced in the song "My Humps," which really should be our unofficial Connecticut College Camels theme song). The Camel loves high-fives, hugs, dance partners, rousing games of duck-duck-goose, spitting contests, and more — but inappropriate touching. So a small plea of wisdom: PLEASE DON'T GROPE THE CAMEL.

In addition, the Camel does not wish to be disrobed. Don't get me wrong, the Camel likes to have a good time, but he stays responsible and tries to keep himself decently covered at all times. Often people try to remove the Camel's clothing and head without consent; this is not cool! Believe me, no one wants to look back at a crazy spring break picture of "Camels Gone Wild." So also: PLEASE DON'T DISROBE THE CAMEL OR TRY TO TAKE OFF HIS HEAD.

The Camel is so excited about the great events and people at Conn! He definitely gets pumped up; however, having a water-retaining hump sometimes throws off his center of gravity. It is no fun to be tackled from behind, have his tail yanked, be aggressively chest-bumped or otherwise injured. The Camel needs to be treated gently; sometimes he just needs some love and tenderness. PLEASE DON'T PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH THE CAMEL.

Thank you for your support and let's go Camels!

Best Buddies Program Forms Lasting Bonds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

activity and diversity of events this year, and the fact that we have buddies our age has been really energizing."

Sometimes the differences in ability provide a challenge in scheduling activities for the whole group. "Today we did something with balloons, but we had one Buddy who's petrified of balloons," said Holland of April 11's activities on the green. "So we had a College Buddy take them outside."

"For those with sensory issues, we can always come up with an option that's less involved," Holland said. Senior Blake Marcus

began being a Buddy earlier this year, and has found the program to be very rewarding — and exciting. "We did a treasure hunt at the A.C.," he gleefully recounted. "And a Yankee swap. That was so much fun!"

"Next year," said Holland, "our goal is to focus on the one-on-one relationships." Holland and Emma Rathkey will be co-directors for the Conn chapter.

"Our main focus is to recruit more people, people on the campus — we're a nonprofit, so it's just about recognition, and participation," de Oliveira said.



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New Plans for SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alongside Chair of J-Board, Chair of Diversity & Equity and Chair of Academic Affairs."

The core values and mission of the college are academic excellence, diversity, equity and shared governance, education of the entire person, community service and global citizenship, adherence to common ethical and moral standards and environmental stewardship. The student governing body of the college now better reflects the college's emphasis on environmentalism with the Environmental Representative now named Chair of Environmental Affairs.

Several positions have title changes as well, albeit with less impact on their duties: the Public Relations Director has been renamed the Vice President of Public Relations in order to recognize the importance of the position and the Public Relations committee in planning SGA

events and campaigns.

The Vice President will now be called the Vice President for Finance.

The Parliamentarian who is in charge of running meetings and ensuring the Assembly follows parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, will no longer be appointed by the SGA President.

The Assembly will vote on the Parliamentarian the first meeting of fall semester. The hope is that the Parliamentarian will be more accountable to the Assembly.

It will remain a non-voting member position, like the Presidential Associate.

Senators will be elected early fall semester, rather than at the room selection night in spring semester.

This will allow freshmen, students studying abroad, and those on the single's waitlist who are not housed until after the selection night the opportunity to run

for position as senator.

These changes are just one phase of the larger restructuring proposals currently being brought forward at SGA.

The next proposal (section two) addresses the effectiveness of SGA committees and breaks them into SGA-specific committees, student-run committees and staff committees.

Further recommendations for the positions of Vice President of Public Relations, Chair of Residential Affairs, Parliamentarian and Chair of Judicial Board have been submitted to the current officers. Recommendations will be further explored at the elect's discretion or forwarded onto the incoming executive board.

As all major changes to the C-Book that affect a large number of students in and outside of Student Government, the changes will be voted on in a campus-wide referendum this week.

2010 NFL Draft



LeBron James leads the Cavaliers in both points scored and assists as the playoffs approach.

PHOTO FROM WEB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the town where football careers go to die.

Admittedly, I'm not Tebow's biggest fan.

Another thing to keep an eye on as the draft approaches is the Detroit Lions and whether they stick to the guns of the now departed Matt Millen and try to build a successful football team from the outside in. No team in recent memory has made more inadvisable picks than the Lions (the Raiders don't count; they're being run by the animated corpse of Al Davis), and it would be par for the course if they chose a receiver they didn't need (Dez Bryant) over a big fat guy for either their wanting offensive or defensive lines. If the remaining Lions fan is reading this, renounce your faith if Goodell doesn't say the name "Suh" or "Okung" on the 22.

The combined tonnage of the first round is going to be interesting to note, as there is a plethora of offensive linemen and interior defensive linemen who are poised to go during the draft's first day. Tennessee safety Eric Berry might have to watch himself as he waits for his name to be called, or else a couple of offensive tackles who didn't anticipate the process taking so long might be looking for something to take the edge off their hunger.

Also, assuming he manages to wade his way through all the bigger guys, watch out for Ole Miss's Dexter McCluster. An undersized receiver who converted to running back part way through the 2009 campaign, he went on to tear through strong SEC opponents to the tune of over 800 yards in his first four games. Questions about his size and experience at the position will push him out of the first round in favor of C.J. Spiller, but look for a team to pick him up in the second round at a highly discounted rate.

Teams bank their future on the success or failure of their picks on Draft Day, with impact rookies sometimes giving a team the added component they needed to make a push in the playoffs. Regardless of how these seven rounds play out, we can be sure of two things; the first being that the 2010 NFL season will be a fresh slate for 31 teams, and the second being that the Raiders simply have no hope.

Weekly Roundup: Spring Sports Teams

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Last week, Conn's spring teams found success in the pool and on the field. While the college community is excited about the undefeated men's lacrosse team, other Camel athletic teams are also making strides that are receiving somewhat less attention.

The women's water polo team had a very successful weekend with victories against Chatham University and Penn State-Berrend on Saturday. Although they did suffer a 17-5 loss to Grove City College, the Camels have had a strong season and currently own a 4-4 record.

They look to improve this record with matches against Washington and Jefferson College and Utica College this past Sunday and a match against Brown University on Thursday. All of these games will be played at Lott Natatorium.

The regular season will end after these three games, and the team will then look to make a strong showing at the Division III Eastern Championships at Utica College on April 23 and 24.

The women's lacrosse team has recently also been performing well. They defeated rival Bates on Saturday by a score of 13-12 in a double overtime thriller. The Camels rallied from an eight-goal deficit to tie the game and force two extra periods to determine the winner. The team now has its first NES-CAC win, and it hopes to build upon its 4-5 season record with matches this week at Eastern Connecticut State on Wednesday and at Tufts on Saturday.

The track and field team had

an excellent showing at the Eastern Connecticut State University Invitational this past Friday. Both the men's and women's teams broke school time records on the way to victory in the 4x1500 meter relay.

Alex DeShields '12 won both the 200 meter dash and the long jump events for the Camels. The men's squad also posted victories in the high jump, pole vault, 1500 meters and 5k individual events.

Sophomore Brigi Palatino also won two events; she posted dominant times in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. The women's team had individuals place first in the high jump, 800 meters, long jump and 5k as well.

Both teams will participate in the Amherst College Invitational on Tuesday, and they will then host the Silfen Invitational this Saturday at the Silfen Track and Field.

Lastly, the men's and women's tennis teams have hit rough patches lately. The men have dropped their last five matches, the most recent defeat coming at the hands of the Bates Bobcats this past Saturday. The women's team also lost to Bates, but they are still doing well with a 5-4 season record. Both teams will look to add another win when they face opponents this week; the men will take on Springfield College on Tuesday and the women will match up against Trinity College on Wednesday.

As the spring season continues, each team at Conn has already made great strides, and these teams will garner more accomplishments before the year comes to an end.

Cavaliers Eyes Title as NBA's Postseason Nears

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

The NBA regular season is quickly coming to a close and thus fans brace themselves for the far-too-long, enough-already, when-is-it-going-to-end NBA postseason.

This season has brought plenty of excitement. From the emergence of the Thunder's Kevin Durant as one of the top scorers in the NBA, to the ever-entertaining LeBron James and Kobe Bryant each leading their teams to the top of the standings. It also featured the fantastic rookie play of the Kings' Tyreke Evans, the Bucks' Brandon Jennings and Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors.

Let's take a look at how the playoff match-ups are most likely going to unfold as well as some postseason predictions.

Starting in the Eastern Conference, the Cleveland Cavaliers have locked up the top seed and will most likely square off against the Toronto Raptors in the first round. The Raptors will be without star Chris Bosh who is on the sidelines indefinitely after taking an elbow to the face on April 6 and sustaining maxilla and nasal fractures. The Cavaliers should have Shaquille O'Neal back after being out for almost two months with a thumb injury.

Dwight Howard and the Orlando Magic will play as the number two seed against the seventh-seeded Charlotte Bobcats, who will be making their first postseason appearance in franchise history.

I think the third seed will likely go to the Atlanta Hawks, which would force them to square off against the Milwaukee Bucks, the expected sixth seed in the playoffs. The Bucks will be without 7'1" Australian center Andrew Bogut, who suffered a horrific fall on April 3 and was left with a dislocated elbow, broken hand and sprained wrist. Without Bogut, it's possible that the Bobcats will move up into the sixth position if the Bucks cannot find a way to win

without their star center.

That leaves the final first round match-up between the fourth-seeded Boston Celtics and fifth-seeded Miami Heat. Many think the Celtics are running out of time, age-wise, and this could be one of their last chances to make a run at an NBA title.

I see the Cavaliers, Magic, Hawks and Celtics all advancing. In the second round, I see Cleveland knocking off the Celtics in six games while the Magic send the Hawks home in seven. In the Eastern Conference Finals, the Cavaliers avenge their loss to the Magic last year and take Orlando in six to reach the NBA Finals for the second time in four years. The Cavaliers' roster is much deeper this year with the additions of Antawn Jamison and O'Neal and should be able to handle the size of Dwight Howard, unlike in 2009. The Magic also no longer has Hedo Turkoglu, who wreaked havoc on Cleveland last year in the playoffs.

Heading out West, the playoff seeds are a little less secure and finalized. The Los Angeles Lakers will most surely be the number one seed. However, as of April 11, the second through eighth places are separated by just four games. I pick the Lakers to take on the Portland Trail Blazers in the first round while the projected second-seeded Dallas Mavericks will take on the Oklahoma City Thunder, led by the NBA's leading scorer and third-year player Kevin Durant.

The red-hot Phoenix Suns will follow up as the three seed and take on the San Antonio Spurs, who I see finishing sixth. There is a history of bad blood between the Suns and Spurs (especially in the playoffs), which could prove to be a very entertaining and exciting first round match-up.

Rounding out the Western conference playoff lineup, the Utah Jazz slide to the fourth slot and take on the Denver Nuggets in the five spot. Utah and Denver

are the two weakest road teams out of the Western Conference playoff teams and this series could come down to which squad can step it up away from home. Advancing to the second round in the West will be the Lakers, Dallas, Phoenix and Denver.

The Nuggets will then take the Lakers to seven games before LA secures their spot in the Western Conference Finals, while the Mavericks knock off the Suns in six games.

Lastly, I think Dallas has the firepower and determination to upset Los Angeles in the Western Conference Finals and take on the Cavaliers for the title. Dallas has really prospered since the trade deadline in February when they obtained Caron Butler and Brendan Haywood from the Washington Wizards. These players complement Nowitzki, Jason Kidd, Shawn Marion and Jason Terry quite well. The Lakers have been struggling a bit lately and the team does not seem to have the aura of invincibility they had in 2009.

If, by some miracle, all my predictions are correct (doubtful, as my 2010 March Madness bracket proved), I think this will FINALLY be the year LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers get that elusive title. The Cavs have plenty of big men—not only James, but also Jamison, O'Neal and Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who may be able to shut down the Mavericks' scoring threat Dirk Nowitzki.

I think the size of the Cavaliers along with some of the match-up problems in trying to guard Anderson Varejao, Mo Williams and Delonte West, who can all be very dangerous scoring threats on any given night, will be a huge problem for Dallas. The overall depth of Cleveland may just be too much for Dallas to handle. I think this series will go to six games, and in the end King James will end up with the NBA title ring on his finger.



The women's water polo team huddles around Coach JJ Addison during a match on Saturday.

KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

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3-Dimensional Cinema: The future of technology or our own bankruptcy?

MATTHEW GENTILE
STAFF WRITER

In wake of recent mega-hits like *Avatar*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and last week's *Clash of the Titans*—it appears that we ought to prepare ourselves for a new cinematic format.

These four films are all blockbusters that have been released within the past five months. And these films, as of now, are all responsible for bringing in a ton of bank for their respective studios.

I can understand why *Avatar* made almost three billion dollars worldwide. Say what you want about its screenwriting, but the movie broke grounds and actually used 3-D to immerse the viewer into the visual extravaganza which Cameron created.

After seeing it in both 2-D and 3-D formats, I can tell you that I noticed an *extreme* difference—enough to rate it one camel in 2D and four in 3D.

What separates *Avatar* from this crowd however is that the movie was originally planned to be in 3-D



PHOTO FROM WEB

—Cameron simply wouldn't have it any other way.

So in that way, I have respect for *Avatar*. But I have little respect for recent releases like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Clash of the Titans*, two films which were both not

filmed in the 3-D format, but the studios decided to convert them for the release because they knew they could make more money.

3-D is a golden ticket for the studios to make money, because since each cinema charges the viewer for

a ticket AND a pair of glasses, they make an extra \$5 on each ticket sold, which makes a big difference.

I saw *Alice in Wonderland* in 3D, and the effects added absolutely nothing. The set was lavish, with weird plants and the

oddly-shaped creatures mixed and matched with vibrant colors, and from a visual standpoint I could see how perfectly suited Burton was to direct the picture (though I have my thoughts on the film itself).

The film had zero need for a third dimension. Instead, it needed a couple of script revisions.

I never saw *Clash of the Titans*, but I'm going to take my main influence, Roger Ebert's stance on it: "Explain to kids that the movie was not filmed in 3-D and is only being shown in 3-D in order to charge you an extra \$5 a ticket. I saw it in 2-D, and let me tell you, it looked terrific."

Ticket prices are already higher than ever, and adding these five bucks simply to have it in 3-D is wallet-draining for us moviegoers.

But 3-D is an extremely lucrative opportunity for the people pumping money into these projects, so there's no way this whole concept of putting everything in 3-D is going away anytime soon, is there?

The Isms and Outs of Blanche Boyd

In response to Endowed Chair lecture, Two Students Reflect on Conn's Writer-in-Residence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Professor Boyd began her talk with the question of audience, of how to present the story of Susan Smith to a wide range of people. Seeing that her children, her mother in law, her students and the English department were present, the question of audience could not have been more appropriate.

Blanche explained that while she didn't review music, she approached events like rock n' roll. For Blanche connections aren't metaphors, but serve as literal devices that illuminate each other. During the lecture, Blanche discussed her essay comparing sky diving, Kundalini Yoga and stock car racing.

"The point of Kundalini Yoga is to channel the light of god up your spine. The Darlington 500 is the redneck version of Kundalini Yoga, sending energy up your body by yelling at race cars" and that "skydiving and stock car racing are all about falling and noise."

But the main focus of the talk was Susan Smith, and how to successfully tell her story. According to Blanche, "What happened to Susan Smith is more interesting than Susan Smith," so an explanation of her environment and the circumstances leading up to the murder were just as important as describing the woman herself. Blanche then proceeded to explain the four techniques that make the form successful, and how each helped to tell the case of Susan Smith.

1. The scene as a basic unit of construction. What scenes do you use? How long should they go on for? How do you introduce them? How do you exit them? When Blanche wrote about Susan Smith, she knew that explaining the town she lived in was just as important as writing about the lake, where locals weren't sure if it was okay to fish in the lake since two children died in it.

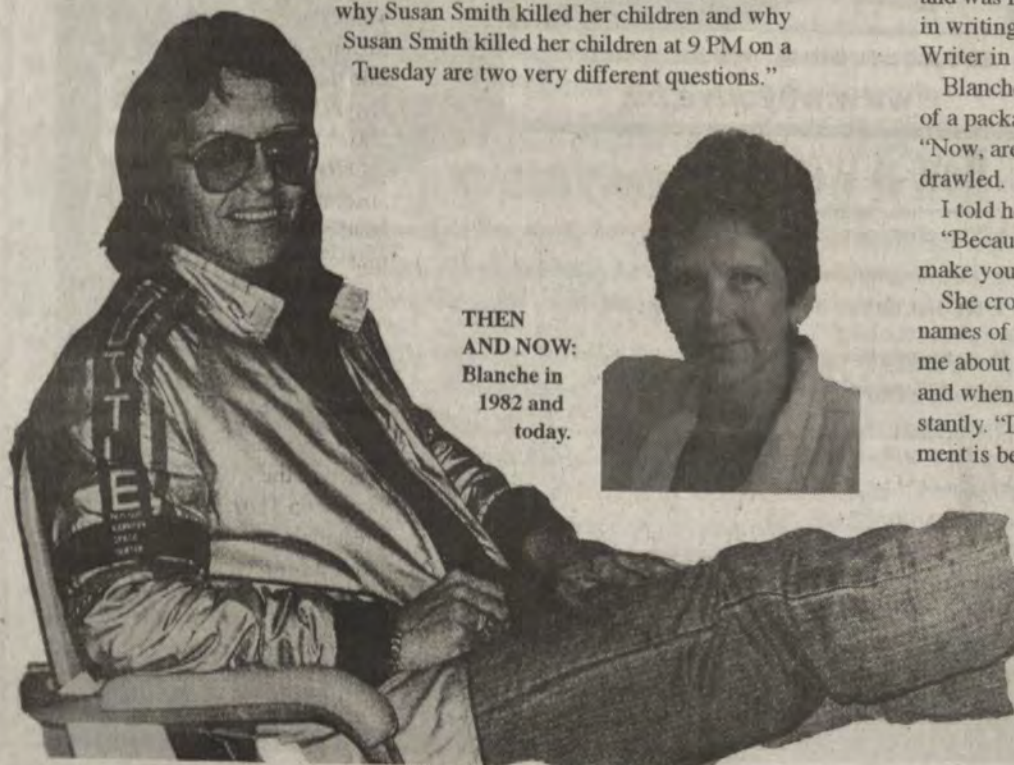
2. Dialogue. Good stories revolve around a few pieces of dialogue that reveal more meaningful information. Which pieces of dialogue do you choose to highlight character? On Mother's Day when Blanche drove her mother to the same lake Smith drowned her children in, she turned to her and asked, "Why didn't you drown us?"

3. Status details, details that matter. "If it doesn't matter, it can't go in. No matter how clever, every detail has to carry weight." It's easy to imagine Susan Smith as a monster, but can you imagine an honors student that was voted "friendliest" in high school drowning her own kids? Or while driving through South Carolina, Blanche and her mother spotted a church sign that read, "A mother's love is like God's love." Neither of them commented.

4. Messing with P.O.V. If you enter the mind of someone else, then what you look at alters. Where you stand changes everything. Since everything is simply someone's point of view, there is no objectivity, only fairness. To consider the point of view that the same people who testified on her behalf were the same people who just lost two children.

With a demonstration of the techniques, Blanche challenged the audience to look beyond the event of the drowning and trial to the larger story, and what it says about human nature. That a memory of her mother being terrified when a bee landed on her brother's forehead is as much part of the story as the murder. That most mothers are overwhelmed with the desire to protect their children from a bee, yet Susan Smith willingly killed hers.

Blanche asked the question that was on everyone's minds: "Why did Susan Smith kill her children? She was molested by her stepfather since she was 15? She was going to lose her job? The love of her life found out she slept with his father? Sure." But the final question Blanche asked challenged everyone to think beyond the story as simply the murder and trial, but as an intricate series of events where every detail is important. "But why Susan Smith killed her children and why Susan Smith killed her children at 9 PM on a Tuesday are two very different questions."



LILAH RAPTOPOULOS
MANAGING EDITOR

Blanche Boyd never uses notes, but she's always in control. She's in control of the language she uses in her writing ("You see that word I used? That was on purpose. Literature isn't born in the library."). She's in control of the intensity of how those words come together in speech ("I want you to ask yourself these two questions: is it good, and does it matter?"). And she's spent so many years cutting what's *not* good and what *doesn't* matter out of student work that when she gets to the podium or the classroom, she drops polished sentences onto us slowly and perfectly. She manipulates the language and delivery into something that will astound her audience, and then smiles, charmingly, because she knows she's good at what she knows.

In her Endowed Chair Lecture last Wednesday, a symbolic solidification of her title as Roman and Tatiana Weller Professor of English, Blanche told us that "Narrative Nonfiction is not an argument, but a story. The scene is a basic unit of construction, and your story has a beginning, a middle and an end."

Here is my beginning.

On Accepted Student's Day Monday in 2007, I walked into the 1962 room for a Major's Lunch with my father in tow. About 30 round tables were set up, each half-filled with professors from specific departments talking to prospective students. The first thing we saw was a round table labeled "CHEMISTRY", where two professors sat in high-waist khakis and running sneakers, picking at their pasta salad. "Are you sure?" my dad asked, his dream for my medical future a chair's length away. I put my hand on his back—we're the same height—and guided him to the English table.

Editor: take out that part about the same height, says the Blanche on my shoulder. Sure, it's cute, but the detail doesn't matter.

I put my hand on his back and guided him to the English table.

There sat Blanche, sleeves of her oversized shirt rolled up, forearms resting on the table, a light orchid tattoo staring my father in the face. She was sitting forward as if about to pop back up, and talking intensely to a girl who was laughing at the wrong times. I sat next to her and was immediately told, "You're interested in writing? This is Blanche Boyd. She's our Writer in Residence."

Blanche snapped a piece of Nicorette out of a package in her pocket and looked at me. "Now, are you serious about writing?" she drawled.

I told her I was pretty sure.

"Because if you're serious, I mean it, I can make you a better writer."

She crossed her leg at the ankle and listed names of students she had taught. She asked me about the schools I was choosing between, and when I told her she shook her head instantly. "Don't go there. Our English department is better."

And then she was gone. My dad and I looked at each other, back at the still-empty chemistry table, back at each other, and then walked to the bookstore still a bit stunned. We hadn't yet processed why we believed her. I bought Blanche's book and enrolled the next week.

Here is my middle.

Halfway through my freshman year, I took Blanche on her promise to make me a good writer. But on our first day of Writing the Short Story, she left us with an overwhelming assignment—write a really, really good paragraph—and an overwhelming thought: "It's a hard inch to cross between being talented and being successful, being good and being terrific."

It seemed I was supposed to learn "good" by Wednesday.

And so that day I walked in, tired from hours of deleting first sentences, with a safe scene describing the warehouse of my uncle's company. Blanche collected our paragraphs and started sifting. She skimmed each page until she found a hook that, for whatever reason, intrigued her. Then she just started reading.

Having Blanche read your piece aloud is one of the most nerve-wracking, exciting experiences you will encounter at this college. You don't know where to rest your eyes. Your pounding heart is shaking the room.

"Pounding hearts can't shake a room," says *ShoulderBlanche*. "You want to be taken seriously? Keep your metaphors realistic."

You're convinced your neighbor can see your mouth shaking. You cringe at every word she stumbles over and you smile, gracious and impressed, when she infinitely improves a sentence just by omitting a word.

"You see how I did that?" she'll say. "You hear how much better that sounds? The transition was unnecessary."

When I turned my paragraph into a story, she told me she didn't believe it.

"But what do I do? It really happened," I said.

"It doesn't matter."

She looked around at us, took the Bluetooth out of her ear, and said, "No one knows what's happened to you. If you're any good, people will believe what you wrote." She tapped her finger on the table. "Do y'all hear me? Fiction doesn't try to be factually true, it tries to be emotionally true. Take what you know and make it feel emotionally true."

This is a Blancheism, one of many that have been passed down from year to year since she arrived Conn in 1982. Blanche herself has certainly gone through exterior changes, from nylon jackets and cigarettes to a wife, twins and a station wagon. But the isms stay constant, memorable, infiltrating our writing and making us better.

Here is my end.

I struggled through Blanche's suggestions, frustrated and embarrassed. What the hell does it mean to be emotionally true? Could her advice be any more opaque? But in that process, I refocused the way I read and wrote, ending with a draft she that made her happy and me proud.

Later in the semester, while directing an ism toward another student's unpolished story, she saw me smiling from the back corner of the room. "I know you hear me, Miss Lilah," she said. Everyone turned their heads and she started to laugh. It was a slow, confident laugh that said, *You get it now, don't you*. And it came from a woman in control of her class and her words, who doesn't need any notes.

ShoulderBlanche is poking me. "Don't kid yourself," she's saying. "This story doesn't have an end yet."

The Dying Race of Film Critics

Two critics, one an alum, speak of film criticism as an art

JOHN DODIG
STAFF WRITER

Have you seen *Back to the Future*? Have you ever thought of comparing the fading photograph of the McFly children to the role of the film critic in contemporary American culture?

Connecticut College alumnus and film critic Charles Taylor, class of '83, has clearly given it some thought.

He made this clear on Thursday afternoon during the English Department's Lorna F. McGuire Lecture, "Film Criticism in the 21st Century."

Stephanie Zacharek, Taylor's wife and a fellow film critic, also spoke at the event. Each lectured for approximately fifteen minutes and their presentations were followed by a half-hour question-and-answer session.

The moments leading up to the event saw professors feverishly trying to open windows to introduce airflow into the stifling atmosphere of Blaustein 210. When it became clear this task was more difficult than anyone had imagined, Professor Ken Bleeth of the English Department introduced the two speakers.

Charles Taylor graduated from

Connecticut College (where he was a writer for *The College Voice*) with a degree in English. He has gone on to write for publications like the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *Slate*, *Newsday* and *Salon.com* among others.

Stephanie Zacharek recently left her job at *Salon.com* to become head movie critic at *Movieline.com* in addition to contributing to *New York Magazine* and other periodicals. She has garnered significant praise, including a comparison to legendary *New Yorker* movie critic Pauline Kael.

Zacharek began to address the audience of students, faculty and friends by explaining that she and her husband had not discussed their notes with one another before the presentation. She apologized in advance should "any overlap" occur.

"I'm part of a rare and endangered species," she said, "a working film critic. Film criticism is thriving and dying at the same time."

She explained that in the last few years print publications have been firing movie critics, which has resulted in an abundance of opinions that can only be expressed with the aid of the Internet. The cost of free web content is

often felt by writers who receive no compensation for their work.

Several times throughout their speeches, both Zacharek and Taylor used the word "democratization" to refer to the current state of affairs on the Internet with regard to art criticism. It became something of a buzzword, something around which their arguments revolved.

"Making a living as a critic is no longer something to strive for, and most bloggers can't make a living of it," said Zacharek.

She went on to explain that there is a disturbing trend among some bloggers to gloat about the explosion of their medium while print media are floundering.

"Movie critics are a luxury," she said. Then lightheartedly referencing her own salary from her web writing gig, she added, "But they're an affordable luxury."

She continued to discuss pay: "Writing for free ends up costing the writer more."

She explained that criticism is first and foremost a writing job—and writing is time-consuming. She said that one of the great challenges of her profession is to evaluate a movie and to write about it in a way that is relevant to her audience. This changes with time.

She argued that as mainstream Hollywood movies become less thoughtful and interesting (offering as an example the recent Miley Cyrus vehicle *The Last Song*), it becomes increasingly important to remain honest in reviews.

"If we don't, she said, "it's going to be the lunatics running the asylum."

Again touching on democratization, Zacharek said, "We live in a world where there's so much noise. It's our job to cut through the noise and not add to it."

When she had finished her fifteen-minute presentation, Charles Taylor approached the lectern. Taylor certainly looked the part of a nine-year veteran of *Salon.com*; he wore dark-rimmed glasses and a matching blue tie-and-pocket-square combination.

He began by thanking some of the handful of professors gathered in the audience and apologized in advance for repeating "much less charmingly" some of the things his wife had just discussed.

Taylor seemed much more at ease addressing the assembled group than did Zacharek, and his points were much more focused and clear. He asserted his love and gratitude for the Internet and addressed the idea of democratization that had previously been



PHOTO FROM WEB

discussed.

"In the name of shaking up the alleged dictatorial rule of Old Media, we come to confuse the belief that everyone has a right to his or her opinions with the belief that all opinions have value. Admitting the obvious, that they don't, is a particularly loaded thing for a film critic."

He then discussed Francois Truffaut's idea about the specific nature of cinema and movie criticism: everyone goes to the movies and everyone has an opinion. The public seems to think there is a level of expertise involved in opera or theater criticism that is absent in film criticism.

For this reason, people feel comfortable second-guessing and even criticizing movie reviews and reviewers.

"The most damaging thing people can say about film critics is that they don't represent the views of moviegoers. I think it's time for movie critics to cede that point. If we represent the views of moviegoers, there'd be no reason to have film critics."

Taylor returned to his democratization theme and introduced a new phrase, his voice dripping with disdain: "citizen journalist." A colleague of Taylor's champions the idea, but he feels differently.

"The citizen journalist will take over and bring a fresh perspective to reporting, starting with the pieces that are being ignored now. We all know that next week when he's

getting his taxes done, this guy is not going to go to the 'citizen accountant.' And I would guess that most of you, with what you pay for your education here, are not going to sign up for a course taught by a 'citizen professor.' You want some degree of expertise."

He introduced the idea of elitism as an essential part of artistic and cultural criticism.

"It's the kind of elitism that movie critics have got to start to heed. I don't mean the elitism of where you went to school or where you live or how much money you have. I mean the elitism conferred by talent and polish and the ability to write in a way that encompasses both nuance and passion."

"To quote a line from *Working Girl* with Joan Cusack, she says, 'Sometimes I dance around the apartment in my underwear. That doesn't mean I'm Madonna.'"

He continued, "The sheer volume of information out there makes it hard for good writers to be heard above the chatter."

Referencing "the chatter," Taylor said there is a "ghastly combination of the fanboy and the pundit" on the rise, aided by poor-quality blogs that cut out the reason criticism developed: the audience.

"The problem is that we have critics who are talking to one another instead of to a larger public," he said. The goal of the critic is "not to get people to think like you, but to get them to think."

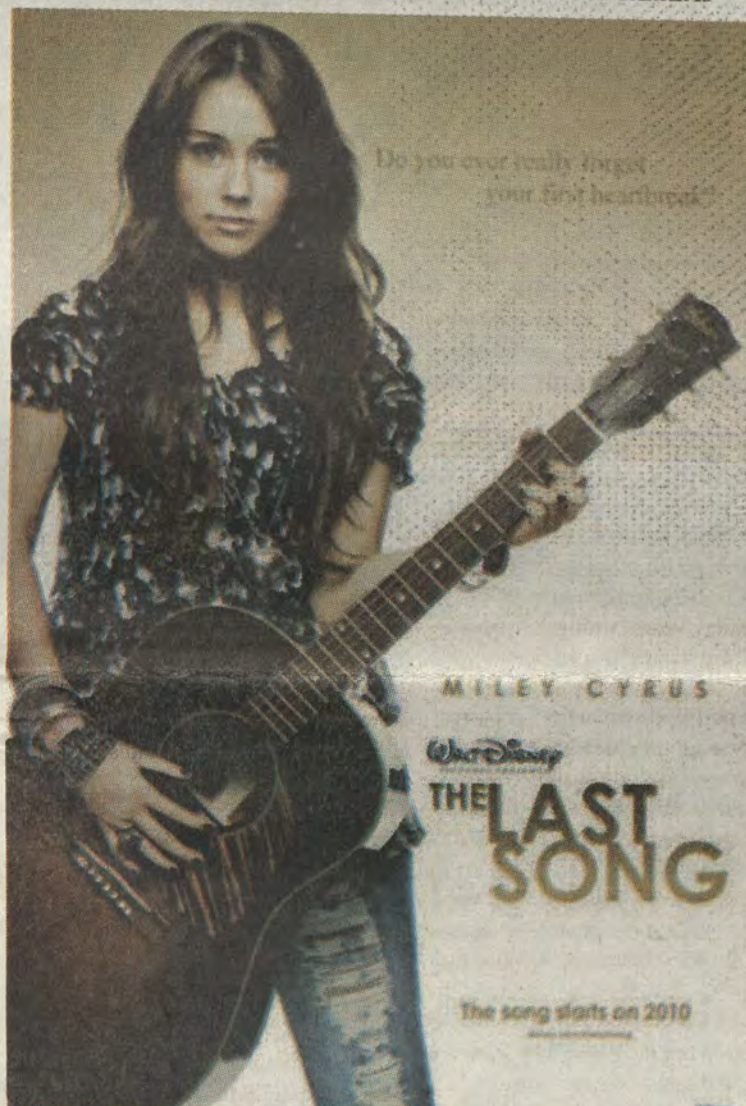


PHOTO FROM WEB

Atoms for Peace Rock Boston's Wang Theatre

Thom Yorke Supergroup Heads Eco-Friendly Concert

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Thursday, Thom Yorke's supergroup Atoms for Peace performed at the sold out Citi Performing Arts Center (better known as the Wang Theatre) in Boston. Before I recount the highlights of this amazing show, a little background information about the band is in order.

Yorke formed the band during the latter part of 2009, and the group played their first show on October 2, 2009 at the Echoplex in Los Angeles. Members include bassist Flea of Red Hot Chili Peppers fame, R.E.M. drummer Joey Waronker, Mauro Refosco on various other percussion instruments and Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich on guitar, keyboards and backing vocals. Yorke leads the way on vocals, piano and guitar.

The group is currently on a mini-tour of the U.S.; they played two shows in New York City early last week, and over the weekend they had two concerts at Chicago's Aragon Ballroom. They will play two more shows in San Francisco and one at the Santa Barbara Bowl before finishing up their tour at the Coachella Music Festival on April 18.

While this tour is definitely a short one, I believe it may be because Yorke and Godrich are also currently working with the rest of the Radiohead crew on a new album.



PHOTO FROM WEB

According to a December 2009 post from Ed O'Brien on Radiohead's website, "The vibe in the camp is fantastic at present, and we head off into the studio in January to continue on from the work we started last Summer...I am so genuinely excited about what we're doing, but for obvious reasons I can't divulge anything more...anyway we all love surprises don't we?"

Yes, we do love surprises, and there's little doubt that Radiohead's next album will be a very pleasant one. For now though, we have another gem in Atoms for Peace.

The show couldn't have happened at a more ornate venue. Every time I've been to the Wang Theatre—be it the *Nutcracker*, Monty Python's *Spamalot* or At-

oms for Peace—I've been amazed by the sheer majesty of the theater. Gold-adorned walls and marble statues surround the audience, and the ceiling is filled with Renaissance-style paintings of natural scenery and naked women playing various musical instruments. It seemed as if it was a mere ten minutes before Atoms for Peace took the stage, mainly because I was so preoccupied with admiring the exquisite details of the theatre.

However, when the lights dimmed and the band did appear, the whole atmosphere of the venue changed. No longer was it a place that seemed more appropriate for a dramatic presentation or an orchestral performance; the roar of the enthusiastic crowd immediately signaled a departure from the decorum evoked by the theatre's

ornate appearance.

The show's lighting included long beams hung above the stage akin to the ones Radiohead used on their 2008 tour. Unlike Radiohead's long, straight lights, however, these ones were in bent shapes that resembled hexane chains (for all you organic chemists out there). They presumably were environmentally friendly, as Yorke is known for his promotion of environmentally-conscious practices.

For the first half of the show, the band played the entirety of Thom Yorke's 2006 solo album *The Eraser*; however, unlike the recorded version, the live performances featured enhanced bass lines and more creative instrumental approaches to the quirky synthetic beats. Flea singlehandedly gave some of these songs new life, especially on "Harrowdown Hill," where he showcased his amazing, bass-slapping skills. Mauro Refosco also infused new, jungle-like energy into some of the songs with his various percussion arrangements.

The second half included a random selection of musical goodies, both old and new. These included two pieces performed solo by Yorke, the first of which was a poignant new song called "Present Tense" and the second was a piano version of the Radiohead track "Like Spinning Plates."

After these songs, Thom gave a little soapbox speech about the

present state of the U.S. and U.K. political systems. He specifically mentioned his disdain for special interest groups, and said, "you could put anyone in the White House and it wouldn't matter how good their intentions were; they'd still come up against this huge f---ing monster of lobby groups and all the interest groups and oil companies and all that s---."

While these comments were not expected, they certainly did elicit passionate cheers from the Boston crowd.

The rest of the set list was made up of new songs that Yorke has been working on recently. One song, titled "Judge, Jury, Executioner," was particularly invigorating and alluded to the parenthetical title that accompanies the song "Myxomatosis" from Radiohead's 2003 album *Hail to the Thief*.

Overall, I found the show to be absolutely incredible. Each of the band's members gave outstanding musical performances, and there's no doubting Yorke's lyrical mastery and Flea's awesome prowess on bass. Hopefully, this first tour will not also be the last for Atoms for Peace.

If they record an album comprised of the new songs they played on Thursday, they will presumably return to cities like Boston for more memorable performances in front of capacity crowds.

Connecticut College's New Camel: Hit or Miss?

ALI McPHERSON
CONTRIBUTOR

The long-anticipated updated design of the Connecticut College camel has finally been revealed. On Monday, April 5, the revised camel logo made its debut at the Founder's Day Celebration to cheers by students, faculty and coaches at the Crozier-Williams Student Center.

The camel became the official mascot of Connecticut College back in 1969 to mark a momentous occasion in the college's history: when it became co-ed. The camel that previously represented Conn, now referred to as the "retro" camel, was introduced as the official design in 1999. The college believed it was time to update the school's branding image and celebrate successes of the past 99 years with a new camel athletics logo.

The process of developing the new camel was a tedious one; it began with a survey in which the entire student population, alumni and other college community members were asked to voice their opinions about how the new camel design should reflect Conn. In addition, focus groups were created to discuss what people wanted and how the artist could provide a perfect camel.

The 1,445 participants in the survey were given multiple options to choose from, and designer Eric Rickabaugh, from Rickabaugh Graphics out of Ohio, was given

the task of creating a camel that fit the desires of the voters.

Participants in the survey leaned strongly toward having a camel that was "strong," "proud" and "dignified." In addition, the participants also voted toward having a camel with a style that was "collegiate," "traditional" and "classic," yet would give their opponents something to fear.

So how do the students, student-athletes, staff and faculty feel about the new camel athletics logo?

Many of the student-athletes are extremely impressed with the new and improved camel mascot. Rob Moccia '12, of the men's lacrosse team, said, "the new camel is great for athletics; it is more fierce and aggressive, and that makes us feel like a more aggressive team."

Similarly, Katrina Sereiko '12, of women's rowing, agreed that there are great things about our new mascot. She said, "Our new mascot is much sportier - it's more like a big, Division I University."

Hope Barone '12, of the women's lacrosse team agreed. "Having a mascot that makes us feel like a big university will cause our teams to play like a big university; this mascot really ups the ante and makes us want to play even better."

But, students, as well as faculty, have also expressed concerns with the new mascot, describing it as looking like the loch ness monster, a horse and even the camel from the cigarette brand.

Philosophy professor, and president of the CC Phi Beta Kappa chapter, Lawrence Vogel stated, "It is remindful of a sea monster. It's like one of those social psychology tests, where we're told it looks like a camel - so we think it is - but it's not!"

Although he thinks the mascot is lacking some sort of quintessential camel-ness, he said that "it is a suitable mascot for the teams - the old one was rather dreary. This one is fierce."

The largest complaint from students and faculty was that they would much rather have had the camel mascot designed by our own CC art department.

Galen Byrne '12 and Marine Van Der Eb '12 agreed with this argument. Byrne said, "with such a talented art department, it seems that Conn would have looked to them first to design the logo. it would have been a great way to get the campus community even more involved."

Van Der Eb, a javelin thrower for the track team, agreed. "Having the art department create the mascot would have been not only more meaningful, but also much less expensive."

The campus is abuzz with news and opinions about the new mascot; some people love it, some people don't. But either way, the redesigned camel logo represents a century of success at Connecticut College, and revamping it is a great way to celebrate CC's 99th birthday.



Steve Dachille '10 in a match against Bates College.

Dachille '10 Named NESCAC Player of the Week

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

As the Connecticut College Men's Lacrosse Team continues to be recognized at the national level for their outstanding performance this season, individual Camels are also garnering honors. After notching his 100th career goal and posting two five-goal performances in one week, senior Steve Dachille was named NESCAC Player of the Week on Monday, April 5.

Dachille's impressive goal-finding ability was highlighted during games against Keene St. on March 30 and Bowdoin College on April 3. Despite being pressured by tough defenders, he managed to score five goals in each game, even netting the game-winner in overtime play against the Bowdoin Polar Bears.

More recently, Dachille scored four goals in the match-up against Williams College on Wednesday, April 7, leading the Camels to their fourth-straight one-goal victory. Following the game, Dachille earned national honors as he was named Inside Lacrosse/Nike National Division III Player of the Week.

Connecticut College Head Men's Lacrosse Coach, Dave Cornell, is extremely proud of how his team is doing this season and is happy to have Dachille leading the team as one of the captains. "Steve is a tremendous leader for our team and he is finding ways to score," Cornell expressed on the Athletics website. "He's being locked off a lot this year but he's smart and is manufacturing opportunities for himself in other ways."

Dachille has launched himself into fifth place on the program's all-time scoring list with over 110 total goals scored after the Wil-

liams game. He leads the Camels this season with 29 goals and four assists for a total of 31 points. In addition he has amassed 18 ground balls so far this season.

This past Saturday, the Camels hosted Bates College, who despite having an opposite record from the Camels of 0-5 going into the game, is underrated this season and is still one of Conn's top rivals in men's lacrosse. NESCAC games are so exciting because anything can happen, with the victors only being decided in the last minutes of many games. However, the fierce competition between Conn and Bates is one rivalry within the league that is especially hair-raising. The match-ups between these two teams have been especially noteworthy in past seasons as both sides fiercely debate the outcomes until the final seconds.

Saturday's match-up was no exception. While Conn never lost the lead during the game, Bates put up a fight in the third quarter and it seemed as though they had the fire for a comeback. Conn, however, knew going into the game that they had to shut down the Bobcats' explosive offense, and the Camel defense was able to hold on to seize a 13-8 victory.

With the win against Bates, Connecticut College remains undefeated (10-0 overall, 6-0 in NESCAC) and holds its first place standing in the NESCAC rankings.

Connecticut College is currently ranked eighth in the latest United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III National Poll. The Camels are one of only two NESCAC teams ranked within the top 10; only Tufts stands above them at #6, while Middlebury, who the Camels already defeated, is ranked #12.



Experts predict both Sam Bradford (left) and Colt McCoy will be taken early in this year's draft.

2010 NFL Draft to Feature Several Star Quarterbacks

ALEX MARTLAND
STAFF WRITER

America has a number of strange idiosyncrasies. We inaugurate our newly elected President in January, a tradition which caused poor William Henry Harrison to catch pneumonia and die, having thoroughly enjoyed his one-month stint as our ninth President. We stand resolutely behind our imperial measuring system, while the rest of the world struggles to come to terms with how we decided there should be 5,280 feet (but not the shoe kind) in a mile. We insist on calling a slice of bread dipped in egg and fried French toast, with the notable exception of 'dem good old boys in the South, who only eat Freedom toast which, coincidentally, also makes no sense.

However, stranger than our archaic system of measurements and abundance of culinary misnomers, is the absolute reverence given to a simple weekend towards the end of April. During the course of seven rounds spread over three days, a select number of highly qualified finger-painting majors from prestigious universities across the middle of the country wait anxiously to see where they'll land in the newest edition of the NFL draft.

For the purveyors of the innumerable mock drafts the Internet has to offer, April 22 is Christmas,

New Years and the 4th of July all rolled together. Only instead of presents and barbecues, there are discussions of Wonderlic tests and an abundance of 350-pound men.

To the casual observer, the draft is nothing but an overblown crapshoot (my apologies for that making a terrible image), with can't-miss prospects like Ryan Leaf, who went second overall in '98, and is currently raiding his mother's medicine cabinet then selling the contents to high school students and chunky final-round castoffs like Tom Brady.

But to more ardent draft-enthusiasts, the draft is a subtle science of wants and needs, with teams scheming to take the players they covet before rivals can do the same. The New York Jets have made a bona fide strategy out of that concept, as for the past decade or so they have drafted not whom they actually wanted, but rather whom they thought the New England Patriots wanted.

By the way, thanks for taking Vernon Gholston off our hands, Mr. Tannenbaum.

According to most reports, the 2010 edition of the draft is going to be a deep one. The quarterback class is headlined by Sam Bradford, likely to be drafted first overall by the St. Louis Rams, who impressed scouts by completing 62 of 63 passes at Oklahoma's Pro Day, with the only incomple-

being a dropped pass. Barring a catastrophic failure during contract negotiations, Bradford is poised to be making many millions of dollars more than any other college junior in the country.

Two more star quarterbacks round out the remainder of the top of that class. First is Notre Dame's Jimmy Clausen, whose draft status could go the way of Brady Quinn now that the Redskins managed to become a threat to the Eagles by obtaining, via trade, the Eagles Hall of Fame quarterback Donovan McNabb. Next on the list is Colt McCoy, who, in stereotypical Texas football player fashion, proposed to his girlfriend at midfield of a dimly lit stadium. Not making that one up.

Also technically included in the quarterback section of this year's draft is Tim Tebow, who has managed to become something of an enigma as scouts continue to analyze his various faults. Personally, I think his final landing spot will be with the Raiders. Not because he'll fit their system well (do they even have a system?), but rather because it would be absolutely gripping television seeing Tebow, who has been anointed as the Patron Saint of making everyone else in the world look like hedonistic deviants having his morals ripped into tiny unrecognizable shreds in

SEE DRAFT, PAGE 5

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OPINIONS

APRIL 13, 2010

Editor: John Dodig

opinions@thecollegevoice.org

“Hi. Can I Borrow Your Car?”

Freshman car privileges are a unique aspect of Conn life that should not be taken away

JOHN DODIG
OPINIONS EDITOR

Earlier this semester, the Student Government Association voted to endorse a proposal as part of the Automobile Congestion and Pollution Reduction Task Force. Part of the proposal states that by the fall semester of 2011, freshmen will no longer be allowed to register and keep their cars on campus.

The ability to have a car on campus is a huge draw for many incoming students, as it was for me when I was accepted to Conn. I came here knowing that the campus is isolated from downtown New London by Mohegan Avenue and I-95; the freedom a car provides is invaluable.

Many other students feel the same way. When asking a few seniors if having a car as freshmen was important, one explained, “It was one of the reasons I came here.”

Without missing a beat, three others echoed. “Same.”

Having a car allows freshmen who don’t live in the immediate area to go home over breaks without worrying about rides to and from the train station or paying for expensive Amtrak tickets. It provides the ability to travel independently of well-intentioned but insubstantial transportation services like the Camel Van and Zipcars. Not allowing freshmen to have cars at school keeps them from developing a relationship with both the city of New London and its neighboring towns.

In the 2007–2008 academic year, Conn’s freshman retention rate was 89.8 percent as compared to 93.9 percent among its peer institutions. Exit surveys show that one of the main reasons students leave is because they feel trapped on campus.

According to the March 2010 SGA Automobile Congestion and Pollution Reduction Task Force Report, the decision to disallow freshman car privileges can be traced back to 1999. The Board of Trustees voted to approve but not endorse a version of the Master Plan that included one sentence advocating prohibiting freshman parking on campus. It is unclear exactly when freshmen were first allowed to bring cars to school, but SGA President Peter Friedrichs says it was around 1990.

The report also includes a figure as evidence for its proposals that lists twelve of Conn’s “peer institutions.” These include Haverford, Swarthmore, Bates, Amherst and others. Of the twelve, four allow freshman

parking in the same style as Conn, and three others allow it with special permission from faculty.

The report says, “The relocation of New London 101 and hard-working LINCC club have refocused freshmen’s attention on the city of New London and demonstrated that it is possible to live without a car.”

Apparently by relocating one freshman orientation event from the beach to downtown, the school has managed to demonstrate that freshmen can function without cars? The connection here is unclear: enjoying downtown and being able to live

The campus is isolated from downtown New London by Mohegan Avenue and I-95; the freedom a car provides is invaluable.

without a car are two very different things.

Our campus is not an easily accessible part of the New London community. It is not a plausible option in most situations to walk downtown. Cabs are expensive (ten dollars from campus to the train station – not including a tip), in high demand and totally unreliable. Even biking downtown is dangerous, as our school is surrounded by highways rather than by smaller roads.

The task force defends its position by explaining that the change will “help to educate freshmen about life without an automobile.” This seems rather irrelevant, considering that by their sophomore year students will have the opportunity to bring a personal vehicle to school with them.

It concludes, “Freshmen would rely on the College’s and community’s public transportation and utilize relationships with upperclassmen friends and the Zipcar system to drive a private automobile.”

The transportation options to which the task force alludes are Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) buses, the Camel Van and Zipcars.

SEAT buses run from campus to downtown (and vice versa) only every two hours with the latest bus stopping at eleven o’clock.

The Camel Van, which has been outsourced to a company called Liv-ery Limited, charges one dollar per round-trip. This fare must be paid in the form of a special coin students can buy at the Office of Student

Life, which has limited office hours. More importantly, the Camel Van only operates four days per week.

On weekends, the van’s last trip is before eleven o’clock, requiring students enjoying attractions downtown to cut their nights short.

As for Zipcars, they’re certainly a step in the right direction, but the service has an annual fee of \$35 – roughly the cost of registering a car for one semester – in addition to a charge of \$8.25 per hour or \$61 per day. That means that using a Zipcar for five hours is more expensive than registering a car for a full academic year. Granted, this does not take into account insurance and gas for private cars, but the figures are still surprising.

The argument has also been made that in not allowing freshmen to have cars, underclassmen will befriend older students who are able to drive, thus encouraging interclass integration and bonding. However, it’s unrealistic to expect a group of freshmen to ask an upper-classman to drive them to dinner in Mystic or Groton on a Friday night. It eliminates opportunities and puts freshmen at risk of feeling as like a burden to older students, something nobody (especially a new college freshman) wants to be.

Our school is integrated in ways that many schools are not. We already house students from different class years and of different sexes on the same floors. Freshmen will invariably strike up friendships with older students, not based on transportation, but based upon the fact that there is constant exposure to members of other classes at a school this small.

It even happens quite often that the directionality of the ride-sharing arrangement is reversed. It’s not uncommon for carless upperclassmen to make friends with their younger vehicularly-privileged counterparts and for friendships to develop that way.

This overall argument ignores the countless freshman friendships that are shaped and solidified by car possession and trips off campus to Norm’s, the movies, the beach, concerts, Target and downtown New London.

Having a car, or just a friend with a car, allows students to interact with the world outside our campus in a more mature, independent way. This is something the school should embrace.

Harris Goes Matzah-Mad for Passover

EVA JABLOW
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a common misconception among non-Jews that Jews love matzah. We don’t. It is a flavorless, messy, unleavened cracker. Yes, we eat it in memory of the aslavery in Egypt. But by no means do we love it. The honest truth is that *non-Jews* love matzah.

This is mainly because they never have to rely on it as their primary form of sustenance. Until you spend eight days constipated and in a constant state of hunger, you might love matzah. Until you’ve walked around Harris like a lost puppy with a plate of it (not to mention the confused stares), you might love it. But Jews? Not so much.

Unfortunately, Harris decided to make matzah the

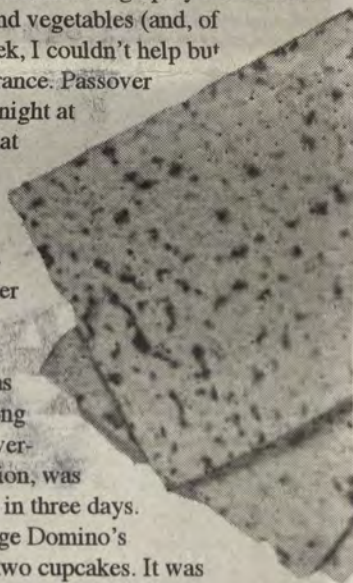
Rather than replace forbidden ingredients in every day recipes like many Jewish families do, Harris had a different brilliant idea: just add matzah!

ultimate Passover staple this year, taking it to the extreme. I trudged into Harris before my nine o’clock class one morning, my stomach carbless and empty. I approached the hot line (strategically avoiding the bakery of amaziness that I couldn’t touch) and almost laughed out loud at the Passover-friendly meal of the day: “Scrambled Eggs and Matzah.” As you might expect, that’s scrambled egg and matzah – mixed together. As if on any other day I would be eating scrambled eggs and bread.

For the record, scrambled eggs are no problem on Passover. What we are required to avoid are the five species of grains – wheat, rye, oats, barley and spelt (as well as legumes). Rather than replace forbidden ingredients in every day recipes like many Jewish families do, Harris had a different brilliant idea: just add matzah!

Matzah lasagna, matzah barely-grilled cheese, or my personal favorite – matzah-crumb-covered tilapia. Life is difficult enough at home on Passover with simple restrictions, but Harris managed to turn the custom into a serious hardship. One night I looked up the Passover entrée and nearly gagged when I encountered the creatively dubbed “Tuna Nut Balls.” That’s right, I said it. Tuna Nut Balls. Oh, I forgot to mention the other option that night: green beans. Mm, I can just feel my stomach filling up by the second.

After living on fruits and vegetables (and, of course, matzah) for a week, I couldn’t help but resent Harris for its ignorance. Passover didn’t end until Tuesday night at about 7:30 PM. I arrived at Harris at five o’clock to grab dinner before my service learning and found absolutely no Passover option anywhere other than a few cracked pieces of leftover matzah. It was assumed that Passover was over after lunch and I, along with the rest of the Passover-observing Jewish population, was left to eat my fifth omelet in three days. At 8:30, I ate half of a large Domino’s pizza, cheesy bread, and two cupcakes. It was the best meal of my life.



Love Me, Love Me. Say That You Love Me.

Striking and disturbing parallels between two very different searches: seeking a hook-up and the quest for employment

JOHN SHERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Anyone in the broad vicinity of the 50 Days dance two weeks ago can attest to the sloppy clutching to which many of us have been reduced. In the final, boozy months of the school year, weekends are filled with college-sponsored alcohol and music – the administration’s effort to make Spring oh-ten unforgettably forgettable.

My intention is not to impugn clutches and clutchers, assuming said clutching was consensual, but rather to question what it is that drives us to such messy extremes. Even seniors find someone new and unknown to test-drive, long resigned though they are to the impossibility of truly anonymous sex and the woes of friends-with-benefits-ship. One all-too-driven stretch of highway, and yet we somehow find new bumps in the pavement.

Like most juniors and seniors, I am on a desperate hunt for employment – in my case, for the summer; in the case of seniors, for as long as possible. This search entails cover letter after cover letter, carefully nuanced résumés, and, for most of us, only the vaguest career plan. This par-

ticular hunt, like looking to score at 50 Days, is more trawling than tracking.

We are in a serious validation crisis. *I am an unsuccessful college student because I haven’t gotten a job. I don’t look good because Bobby didn’t ask for my number.* Logical causality is a pipe dream. For all the things each of us has to do at a given time – final exams,

graduate school applications, job interviews – we are in an almost constant state of evaluation. Too often, we have no consistent method of gauging personal success. Other than casual sex, of course – the lowest common denominator of pick-me-ups.

The quest for employment and the quest for a sexy friend begin in a similar fashion – with idealism. We’ve already found the

Perfect Job/Person – if only they could see just how perfect we are for it/him/her! If they only met us, they would totally hire/do us right away. We would do this job/per-

retrieve a fully-formed human being.

It’s gonna be me.

And we would be just what he was looking for – if only frosted

tips were still business casual.

Sadly, though, after the first three or four automatic response emails saying, “Thank you for your interest in [this company]. Unfortunately, we

have no open positions for [you],” the dream begins to fade. In a panic, a second list of potential employers is created, twice as long as the first. Cover letter, résumé, repeat.

Our search broadens, google by google, the *NSYNC concert of our dreams becomes a Backstreet Boys concert, and our standards sink almost imperceptibly while we cast our nets wider and wider.



*NSYNC doing what they do best. Photo from web.

son really, really well. We were born to do this job/person.

In our imagined reality, we would be singled out of the crowd and pointed at, shrieking with excitement, like so many girls at an *NSYNC concert.

Baby when you fi-na-ly / Get to love so-ome-bo-dy / Guess what?

Some dreamy hunk – either Justin or JC – would reach into the sea of screaming tweens and

Without warning it’s 98 Degrees opening for O-Town, and finally we realize we would really do anything, anywhere, for anyone. Welcome to Desperate.

This bears an uncomfortable resemblance to our spring semester behavior at Conn. The weather warms up, the liquor is free and all of a sudden we’re back to anything, anywhere, anyone.

Short-lived sexual encounters are single-serving romps with a stand-in for someone whose company we might enjoy sober – maquettes of a real relationship, in some sense. For a brief moment, if we care to, we get to imagine a larger, more successful context for our immediate position(s) – pardon the pun.

In a way, the same is true of the cover letters I send to potential employers. I express my interest in getting involved, assert my belief in what a great match we would be, and solicit serious consideration as a candidate. It’s 50 Days in the form of a formal inquiry.

Most often, begging silently to be noticed by some bored assistant sifting through résumés, I’m all dressed up with nowhere to go – not even a Cro dance. Still, a boy can dream.

Professor Profiles

John Gordon, English

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Professor John S. Gordon is not your standard English professor - if such a thing exists. By day, he sits in his leatherbacked easy chair in his office, wing-tips atop the matching foot rest, grading papers and holding office hours; by night, he watches *Sex and the City*.

A truly well-rounded man, *The College Voice* asked Professor Gordon for his opinion on a number of pressing issues to the campus community. He's got more spunk than you'd think.

Jazmine Hughes: What's your opinion the new camel mascot? Do you think it looks like a Pokemon/the Loch Ness Monster/an angry horse with a dolphin coming out the back like most students do?

John Gordon: It reminds me of Snoopy being the Red Baron. A camel, after all, is an herbivorous beast of burden. The new mascot looks as if he's really pissed off about that.

JH: What *Sex and the City* character are you most like?

JG: Definitely Samantha. I'm a slut.

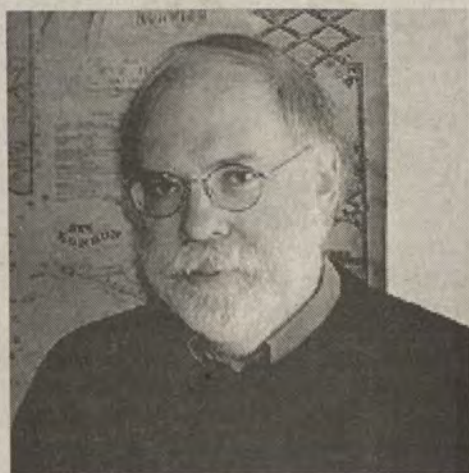
JH: Why do so many English professors have beards? Should all of the others grow them?

JG: There was a time when having a beard meant being a non-conformist, only in a not-really sort of way, and that's when I started mine. Also, never underestimate sloth: shaving every morning can be a real pain. And vanity: some years ago I cut off my beard to see what had happened to my face, and my wife, who had never known me without a beard, was appalled. I believe the word "gargoyle" came up. So that was that.

Should all English professors have them? A neat idea, but after all a lot of English professors are women, and if I answered "yes" it might be taken as a sexist comment, and you can't be too careful about such things on campus nowadays, so - ha! - you're not going to catch me that easily.

JH: What is your drink of choice? Teach our readers how to make it.

JG: Attend, o youth, and learn. Beefeater Gin, Noily Prat Vermouth, five-to-one, straight



up, one olive, pimento included. Should be shaken with crushed ice long enough for a small amount of the ice to melt into the mix. Martinis cooled otherwise - in the freezer, for instance - are unacceptably astringent. Incidentally, I deeply regret having to report that Gordon's Gin is just not up to snuff.

JH: Please define, to the best of your ability, a tank top.

JG: I have no idea what a tank top is, and I refuse to learn. "Tank top" is like "head cheese" - a classic case of two words that never ought to be seen in one another's company. I mean - what? - something that makes your top look like a tank? Is that the best you gals can come up with? The same goes for "tube top."

JH: And, of course, what do you think about the College Voice? Compliments only, please.

JG: When I came here, thirty years ago, the student newspaper was an embarrassment - one of the worst things about the college. Now, it's one of the best. Actually, the only time it's really bad anymore is when my colleagues in the faculty get all in a lather about something someone wrote and sign some silly sanctimonious petition and get it published there. But I suppose you can't do anything about that.

So congratulations to Claire Gould and her estimable stable of editors and writers.

I wonder: do camels have stables?

TJ Wellman, Religious Studies

LELAND STILLMAN
COLUMNIST

On Thursday, April 8, *The College Voice's* Leland Stillman sat down with Tennyson Jacob (TJ) Wellman of the Religious Studies department for an interview without any clear, defined purpose.

Leland Stillman: Where are you from?

TJ Wellman: Wilmington, Delaware. There followed a medium-length conversation about Delaware, which was not nearly so interesting or entertaining as other portions of the interview.

LS: How do you like Conn?

TJW: You're totally doing this interview off-hand, aren't you?

LS: Yeah.

TJW: I've really enjoyed my time here. I've had great relations with faculty and students, and also the support staff, the people in the dining hall, the Campus Safety Officers, everyone.

LS: If you could improve one thing, what would it be?

TJW: I really don't like the parking situation on campus. I appreciate efforts to make it more car-free, but there's really no good place to park on campus if you're coming from off-campus. I'm going to steal a fry.

LS: Go ahead.

TJW: I wasn't asking, that's what stealing is.

At this point, Professor Wellman stole a fry.

LS: Anyway, many students know that you like *The Lord of the Rings*.

TJW: My twisted obsession?

LS: Sure. How old were you when you started reading them?

TJW: I was about four or five, maybe six, when I started watching the *Return of the King* animated movie that always played on PBS. Then in the fifth grade, a teacher of mine let me borrow a copy of the first book. On my first attempt I got bored with the walking.

LS: You mean through the Eryn Muil?

TJW: Yeah, and even the Dead Marshes are boring. So I put them down, only to pick them up again when my grandmother gave me a boxed set.

LS: Who is your favorite character and why?

TJW: Faramir. He is similar and different from Boromir and Aragorn in ways that make him the best of the Numenoreans. Aragorn is the next level.

At this point, Professor Wellman noticed a moth struggling to penetrate a glass window to return to its normal habitat, outside of Cro. He excused himself with a newspaper, used it to pick up the moth, and carried it out the door. The moth promptly flew back inside. Wellman sighed and said, "I did what I could." Someone else said, "That moth has a death wish."

LS: Why do you think *The Lord of the Rings* is so important?

TJW: I like *The Lord of the Rings* so much because it deals with themes directly relevant to our questions: questions of moral choice, modernism and tradition, authority, legitimate and illegitimate, and human virtue - what makes



someone a good or bad person. Also, Tolkien presents an addiction model of evil that I prefer to others. Once you start doing evil things it becomes harder and harder to stop.

TJW: So that's the end of the interview?

LS: Yeah.

TJW: You said you would ask me zany questions. (I had said this earlier, though it was before the interview started.)

LS: I thought my questions about Delaware were kind of zany.

TJW: No, they weren't.

Wellman proceeded to call over one of his students and ask them what was their favorite funny moment in his class. She responded that it was that time he asked what the class wanted to learn about and everyone replied "ZOMBIES."

LS: If you were King of the World, what would you eat for breakfast tomorrow morning and what would you do afterwards?

TJW: Sleep. Have monkey knife fights.

LS: Good idea.

TJW: Don't print that.

LS: Ok.

TJW: Do I have ultimate power, or ultimate authority?

LS: Good question. Ultimate authority, because ultimate power is too easy.

TJW: That it is. Now, have I been King of the World for some time or is this my first day?

LS: First day.

TJW: I would end hunger. It's ridiculous to me that people are starving while grain is rotting in the silos.

LS: That sounds like a good idea to me. And for breakfast?

TJW: Pancakes with maple syrup. Grade B, from Vermont.

LS: If you could ask God one question and receive a written answer, what would you ask?

TJW: What are the winning lottery numbers for post-tax income for 70 million dollars?

LS: If you received that answer, would you still be an agnostic?

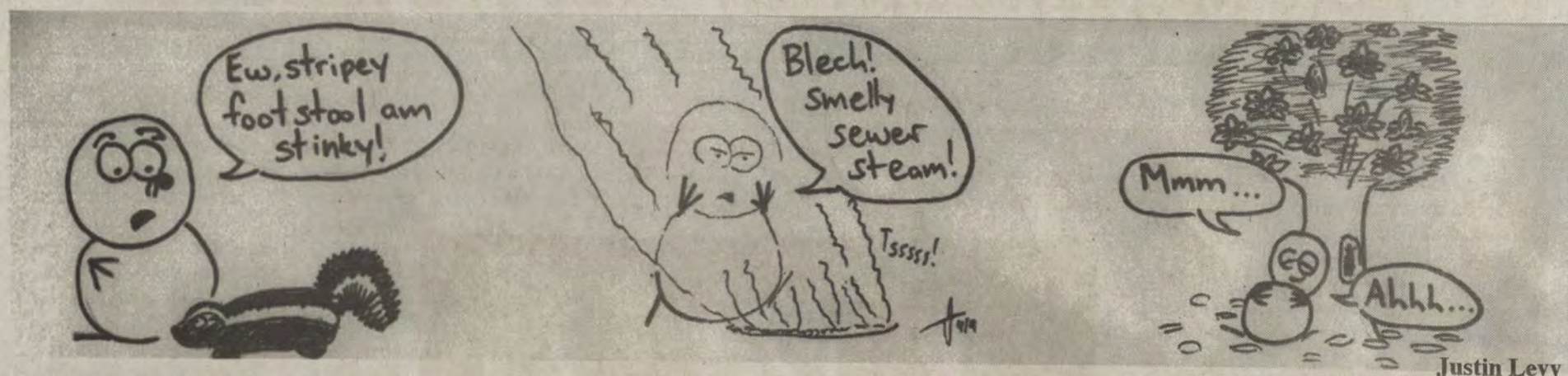
TJW: No, I would consider that evidentiary proof.

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

MAKE IT KNOWN.

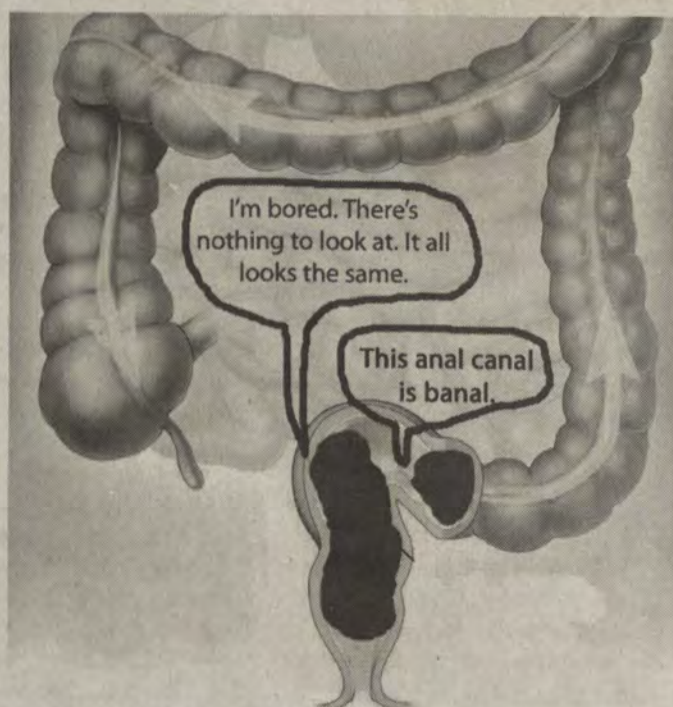
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Spicy Black Bean Soup starring Boof in: "Around Campus in Three Smells"



Justin Levy

Eli Mangold presents "Banal Anal Canal" at left, and at right the latest craze in growable terra cotta novelties: the Shia Pet. Adult supervision required.



Sh-
Sh-
Sh-
SHIA!



Connecticut College Purchases Helicopter

Board of Trustees plans to provide aerial tours to prospective students

ELI MANGOLD
CONTRIBUTOR

Editor's Note: The following article is a piece of satire and not intended to be taken as fact. All quotations are fictitious.

In a bold and surprising move, the Connecticut College Board of Trustees allocated funds to purchase a helicopter last Thursday. The Board approved \$2.5-million for a double-rotor Robinson helicopter, a pilot and a helipad to be placed on the roof of Charles E. Shain library.

"We have decided to purchase the helicopter for a variety of reasons. First of all, it makes us the first private college in history to own one. Second, it will allow us to take prospective students on an aerial tour of our scenic campus," reported Young Alumni Trustee Harris Rosenheim.

He added that the decision was made "not because it was easy, but because it was hard."

The Board conceived the idea after the massive success of the YouTube sensation "Aerial Tour of Connecticut College." In the video, a camera mounted to a



A still from the ConnCollege YouTube site's video "Aerial Tour of Connecticut College."

helicopter provides a stunning aerial view of the campus and surrounding area with poignant text running at the bottom. Since the video, applications have risen 23 percent over last years' numbers and the Admissions Office has noted that the video is on every prospe's lips as he/she comes to interview.

When asked for a comment, President Higdon responded, "if we spent a quarter of a million on

The primary purpose of the helicopter is to provide aerial tours of the college in ideal weather.

two logos, I think we can spend ten times that on a helicopter. Right?"

Students have also been pleasantly surprised.

copter will come equipped with an AED device and medical supplies so that we no longer have to depend on ambulances to haul our drunken classmates to L&M Hospital.

The only concern the Board had was that the helicopter might prove to be a noise violation to the surrounding area. In a proposal, Robinson Helicopters claimed to have a copter that could operate at fewer than 83 decibels (about as loud as busy city traffic). Coincidentally, this is the maximum level of sustained noise allowed in the New London municipality.

Safety was also an issue, but it ceased to logjam the measure because of a "pretty solid insurance policy," according to Rosenheim.

The copter is scheduled to be debuted at the 2010 Commencement, with the yet-to-be-decided speaker arriving in it immediately before his or her speech on Tempel Green.

The copter will proudly display Connecticut College's new athletics logo on each door, and will be painted royal blue and white.

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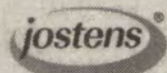


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Letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday preceeding publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 500 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and include contact information.

No unsigned letters will be published.

The editor-in-chief must contact all authors prior to publication to verify that he/she was indeed the author of the letter.

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. These policies must be made public so every member of the college community maintains equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

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Editorials

Warped Perceptions of Change

There are a lot of changes I've seen since arriving on campus as a freshman.

Some ideas are pushed through and implemented quickly, while others are bogged down with additional meetings, channels.

Some changes have appeared as whims (at least to student bystanders), while others were clearly planned and vetted through the student body, faculty and administrators through our college's longstanding tradition of shared governance.

Some of them are slight changes that reflect a larger shift in the college's culture or policies, while others are larger, more visible changes.

The communication involved with many of the campus changes is often lacking, however, which leaves many students (and I'm sure also faculty and staff) perplexed and prone to start rumors about costs and reasons why a change was even necessary.

Like the new athletic camel, for one.

As seen by the interviews with students in the news section this week, the piece in the sports section as well as conversations with almost any student on campus, many are perplexed by the new camel, the costs incurred and why Conn needs a new logo in the first place.

I work in College Relations so I know the reasoning behind the college's efforts in designing a new

branding strategy. (I mean after all, who really wants the same seal that's on your diploma to be on a shot glass? Our name "Connecticut College" also brings a lot of complications along with it: *a college in Connecticut? Or UConn?*) Having a stronger mascot image is not only good for our athletic teams when facing NESCAC peers, but also good for the overall morale of the college and status among our peers. Conn is constantly struggling, mainly because of its name (It really should've been Thames College, that would have saved us from so much confusion), to market a consistent identity. (Think of Lilah's article on "ExtraOrdinary Conn").

Judging from Connecticut College's Facebook Fan Page responses to the new logo (not seal) and camel athletics logo, it seems current students and alums (aside from mostly disliking the new camel) are confused and angered by the change. It always feels to me that alumni, and even current students, are opposed to change made to our precious college.

Maybe that's why we wanted a camel that's "proud," "strong" and "dignified," as well as "collegiate" and "traditional."

But even in the past four years I've been at Conn, we've seen numerous changes that shocked and amazed us (at least at first). Renaming "The Green," labeling of streets, changing the name of "Marshall," the giant sidewalk

popped in front of the library, Putto 4 Over 4, and many more... and now the camel logo.

We got over them. And we'll get over the new logo too.

We might even embrace it.

Although we like to grasp onto the idea of traditions at Conn (of which there are few true traditions), we ultimately are a college full of changes, whether or not we acknowledge them.

Ironically, even our last "retro" mascot was only released in 1999. It only feels "traditional" to us because it's all we've known in the years we've been here.

That's the greatest conundrum I've noticed as a student here: our perception of "tradition" is so horribly warped. The college, like any entity, is constantly shifting, adding traditions, leaving traditions behind, changing names of buildings (none are sacred). Looking back at old yearbooks reveals Cro with a swimming pool, different names for the college newspaper, a variety of logos and seals. Identity shifts with the current students, faculty, staff and administration, and reflects their values and interests. I'm happy to be at a college that doesn't stand still.

Embrace the changes. You know in four years, none of us will even remember Mr. Happy Camel.

-Claire

Letters to the Editor

Newspaper Response:

I came across your website through a search for knitting articles and I enjoyed the article "The First Step Is Admitting You're Packing a Yarnball" by John Sherman.

I'd like to suggest that you and or your staff get on the website and imagine that you're an outsider who has come across an article

through a web search. The title "The College Voice" doesn't tell anyone anything at all about what college, what state, or even what country. I couldn't find contact information anywhere on the website. I found a few references to "Conn", so I could guess that your a college somewhere in Connecticut. But it seems to me that you'd

want to have some kind of header that proclaims who and where you are. Anybody in the whole world might be reading some of your articles!

- Marcia Stutzman

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Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at ext. 2300.